

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 230298

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 13582 ACTION SECSTATE USUN NEW YORK
11 SEP 78.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 13582

USUN PASS TO LOS DELEGATION

E.O. N/A

TAGS: PLOS, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: G-77 DRAFT RESOLUTION ON DEEP SEABED
MINING

REFERENCES: (A) GENEVA 13555, (B) GENEVA 13394

1. PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR ARIAS SCHREIBER REPORTEDLY
PLANNING TO CALL FOR VOTE ON SUBJECT RESOLUTION AT TDB
SESSIONAL COMMITTEE 1 THIS AFTERNOON. GROUP B CAUCUS
DISCUSSED ATTITUDE OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS THIS MORNING.
AT LEAST U.K., FRG, FRANCE, ITALY, BELGIUM, JAPAN AND
U.S. ARE TENDING TO VOTE AGAINST. TURKEY, WHILE OPPOSED
TO CONSIDERATION OF ISSUE HERE, INDICATE THEY UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE IN FAVOR IF RESOLUTION PRESSED TO
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A VOTE. OTHER GROUP B COUNTRIES TENDING TOWARD ABSTEN-
TION.

2. U.K. DELEGATION HAS DRAFTED FOLLOWING STATEMENT WHICH
COULD SERVE AS EXPLANATION OF VOTE BY COUNTRIES VOTING
AGAINST. REQUEST IMMEDIATE INSTRUCTIONS WHETHER STATE-
MENT ACCEPTABLE AS IT STANDS, WHETHER WE SHOULD SUGGEST

MODIFICATIONS, OR WHETHER U.S. SHOULD MAKE SEPARATE STATEMENT; IN LATTER CASE, PLEASE FURNISH DETAILED GUIDANCE. WE SEE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE IN JOINT STATEMENT.

3. BEGIN TEXT: SEABED MINING -- DRAFT EXPLANATION OF VOTE BY GROUP B COUNTRIES VOTING AGAINST DRAFT RESOLUTION
L/3

MR. CHAIRMAN, I AM SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF U.S., U.K., FRG, FRANCE, ITALY, BELGIUM, JAPAN, WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DRAFT RESOLUTION.

LIKE THE WHOLE OF GROUP B, WE CONSIDER INAPPROPRIATE FOR THIS ISSUE TO BE RAISED HERE, WHEN THE SAME ISSUE IS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE PRINCIPAL FORUM IN NEW YORK. WE ALSO DEPLORE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE ISSUE HAS BEEN PRESENTED, AND THE RETURN TO VOTING IN THE TDB AFTER A LONG PERIOD IN WHICH ALL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY CONSENSUS; VOTING, IN OUR VIEW, THREATENS TO UNDERMINE THE WHOLE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH HAS DEVELOPED IN UNCTAD.

FURTHERMORE ON THE SUBSTANCE WE HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE 1970 DECLARATION AND THE UNGA MORATORIUM RESOLUTION OF 1969, AS WAS EXPRESSED AT THE TIME, AS WELL AS ON THE QUESTION OF LEGALITY, SINCE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION IS LAWFUL. WE REAFFIRMED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS VIEW IN OUR VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTION 52(III) AT SANTIAGO. INTERIM LEGISLATION PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF A CONVENTION WOULD AIM SIMPLY TO ENSURE ORDERLY PROGRESS IN THIS NEW FIELD. IT WOULD ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF INVESTMENT NEEDED TO DEVELOP THE NEW TECHNOLOGY (WHICH COULD NOT IN ANY CASE LEAD TO COMMERCIAL MINING FOR MANY YEARS YET). AND IT WOULD BE TEMPORARY, THAT IS IT WOULD BE SUPERSEDED AS SOON AS A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE CONVENTION HAS BEEN RATIFIED AND IS IN FORCE.

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN. END TEXT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

UNQUOTE
CHRISTOPHER

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